

Lori Fogler -Nicholson  
 Political Science student SCSU  
 Resident of Branford Ct.  
 Member of Ct Votes for Animals  
 The Humane Society of the United States  
 The ASPCA

## SB 994

Trapping is an American tradition and it is also legal. Slavery was also an American tradition and it too was legal. Don't be fooled by the word tradition or be coerced into thinking that trapping is somehow an "all American" activity just because it was done 200 years ago. Two hundred years ago people were brought to this continent without their consent and sold into slavery. Not all traditions warrant keeping and the use leg hold traps is one of them and here's why.

Philosophically Americans are compassionate people who strongly disapprove of any practice which *inflicts needless suffering* even if the victims of that suffering are non human animals. I wonder if one of Connecticut's trappers would be willing to demonstrate the effectiveness of one of their leg hold traps by attaching it to their own leg, face, genitals or body part that should be so unfortunate as to come into contact with the device. Of course they won't because they know just how much pain is inflicted. Lets face it this practice is cruel. According to the *New World Dictionary of the American Language* : Cruel is defined as deliberately seeking to inflict pain and suffering, enjoying others suffering without pity or

mercy, cruel implies indifference to the suffering of others, inhumane and the complete absence of those qualities expected of a civilized human being such as compassion, mercy or benevolence. Leg hold traps are cruel and they inflict needless suffering. I want you to remember that definition and these two words...*needless suffering*. If any one of you in good conscious can say that you have no qualms about the infliction of needless suffering then I'd say our problems are much bigger than leg hold traps.

We as a civilized society are counting on you our elected officials to ban this practice and the devices that go with it. Leg hold traps are blatantly cruel and *do not* reflect the will of the people, the vast majority of Connecticut voters. We will never condone any practice that inflicts needless suffering on anyone or anything because it goes against everything we believe is decent in ourselves. The use of leg holds traps don't constitute a sport or a skill, it's not 1846 and we are not living in the Wild West. Woman can vote, our president is an African American and we are living in the twenty first century and we have evolved and we don't tolerate cruelty like we did in "the old days". And...there will never be a reason good enough to look the other way and allow this *cruel* practice to continue. For those of you who insist that trapping is your sole source of income I'd say its time to acquaint yourself with the 21<sup>st</sup> century forget selling the horse and buggy and go see a guy named Henry Ford.

Ct trappers: You don't have the right to inflict needless pain and suffering because no one does. No one has that right. Where is your compassion, pity, and mercy? Dear Connecticut lawmakers it's time to stop the charade and call leg hold traps what they truly are. Cruel, inhumane and better off left in the past were they belong. Please act now and support SB 994.